

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00

ERDA-05 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /096 W

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R 161650Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1557

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, WB, GW, UR, GE

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER FOR BERLIN

REF: A) BONN 16839; B) USBERLIN A-136

1. IN PAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN FLURRY OF REPORTS IN WEST BERLIN PRESS THAT PROPOSED PROJECT FOR DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR POWER FROM KALININGRAD TO BERLIN AND FRG IS DEAD, AND THAT, AS CONSEQUENCE, IDEA OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN WEST BERLIN IS AGAIN BEING CONSIDERED. IN SPITE OF INFORMATION CONVEYED IN REFTEL THAT FRG/USSR PROJECT IS "VIRTUALLY DEAD" AND THAT SOVIETS HAVE MADE NEW PROPOSAL, BOTH FRG SPOKESMAN GRUNEWALD AND BERLIN SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS LUEDER QRE QUOTED AS SAYING THERE ARE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE AND THAT TALKS WITH RUSSIANS ARE CONTINUING.

2. SENATOR LUEDER HAS TOLD PRESS THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY NO APPLICATION TO BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN WEST BERLIN NOR ARE THERE ANY PLANS, EVEN IN PRELIMINARY STAGE, FOR SUCH CONSTRUCTION. HE SAID BERLIN CAN COVER ITS ELECTRIC
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POWER REQUIREMENTS FOR FORSEEABLE FUTURE WITH CONVENTIONAL

FUELS, AND THERE IS NO URGENCY ABOUT CONSIDERING NUCLEAR POWER. HE NOTED THAT BERLIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY HAS CONTRACTED FOR A STUDY OF CLIMATOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BERLIN WOULD BRING, AND NOTED THAT THE SENAT WAS OBSERVING PROJECT FOR NUCLEAR PLANT AT KAISERSLAUTERN (WE UNDERSTNAD HE MEANT TO SAY LUDWIGSHAVEN.) SENATOR NOTED THAT SHOULD A NUCLEAR PROJECT BE PURSUED, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED THOROUGHLY FROM SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW. SAFETY OF CITIZENS WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY, AND NO PERMIT WOULD BE ISSUED IF THER WERE EVEN ONE PERCENT DOUBT ABOUT SAFETY. LUEDER ADDED THAT SHOULD CONSTRUCTION APPEAR FEASIBLE, POLICY DECISION TO PROCEED WOULD NOT BE NEEDED UNTIL SOMETIME BETWEEN 1979 AND 1983.

3. SENAT ENERGY SPECIALIST HAS CONFIRMED LUEDER REMARKS ABOVE AND STATES THEY WERE MADE SOLELY IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS AND INQUIRIES, NOT FOR ANY TACTICAL EFFECT ON FRG/ USSR TALKS. SOURCE, WHILE PESSIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS FOR KALININGRAD PROJECT, SEEMED UNAWARE OF INFORMATION CONVEYED BY LUECKING IN BONN GROUP. ASKED FOR COMMENT ON STATEMENT IN ONE NEWSPAPER THAT AMERICANS FAVORED NUCLEAR PLANT IN BERLIN, SOURCE STATED THIS IMPRESSION MIGHT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY MISSION TO WESTINGHOUSE IN EARLIER TALKS WITH SENAT ABOUT POSSIBLE ATOMIC PLANT HERE. SOURCE STATE COMPREHENSIVE NEW SENAT STUDY OF BERLIN'S FUTURE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER PREPARATION FOR SOME TIME SHOULD BE READY EARLY IN NEW YEAR. DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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